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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our rock and fortress, You put the mountains in place and bring silence to roaring waves. We celebrate and sing because of You. You are a strong tower where we find safety. Strengthen our faith and forgive us for doubting Your power and providence. Help us see Your hand in the orderly transition of governmental power. Remind us that You place leaders in their positions of authority. Thank You for this great land and for the many freedoms we sometimes take for granted.

We appreciate Your faithfulness and Your mercies that are new each day. Today, lead our lawmakers so that Your name will be honored. Protect them from hidden traps and sustain them through the lengthening shadows.

Lord, as we pray, we remember Howard Liebengood, Senator FRIST's faithful chief of staff and a former sergeant at arms. Comfort and sustain all of us who are grieving his loss. We pray in Your blessed Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable NORM COLEMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 20, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COLEMAN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY WHIP

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I will announce today's schedule. The Senate has convened on this ceremonial day for the purpose of considering some of the President's Cabinet level appointments. We had hoped and expected to consider the President's appointment of Condoleezza Rice to be Secretary of State but, unfortunately, I understand there is an objection on the other side to moving to that nomination today. So in a moment I will propound several unanimous consent agreements for the President's nominations.

Before I do, I say that if we get these agreements, there will be no rollcall votes today.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks and the remarks of the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of Executive Calendar No. 3, Mike Johanns, to be Secretary of Agriculture; pro-

vided further that there be 30 minutes of debate under the control of Chairman CHAMBLISS, 15 minutes under the control of Senator HARKIN, and 15 minutes under the control of Senator DAYTON; provided further that at the conclusion of that time the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation and nomination with no intervening action or debate.

Finally, I ask that the President then be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. I ask that the consent be modified to delete the time for Senator HARKIN and Senator DAYTON.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modified request? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on the Johanns nomination, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 2, Margaret Spellings, to be Secretary of Education; provided further that there be 45 minutes of debate under the control of Chairman ENZI, 15 minutes under the control of Senator KENNEDY, 10 minutes under the control of Senator LAUTENBERG, 10 minutes under the control of Senator WYDEN, and 10 minutes under the control of Senator DODD; provided further that at the conclusion of that time the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination with no intervening action or debate.

Finally, I ask that the President then be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. REID. I ask that the consent be modified to have Senator KENNEDY have Senator LAUTENBERG's time if Senator LAUTENBERG does not claim it.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modified consent?

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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